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**Letter from B.D. Dykstra to Nelson Nieuwenhuis, n.d.**

B D. Dykstra

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Mr. Neuenkhus:- May I supplement this letter with a few comments.

While directed to me, it has a common interest for us both. May I request that it be preserved for eventual return to me. Time enough, I may explain that the two oldest sons, Frank and Ralph, were in that historic first group at the Academy. They were young men with magnificent capacities. You will probably never find such a family - with such high average ability. The letter contains the facts about the father. I may add a few traits to put some flesh and blood on the skeleton of information. Mr. Le Coq was a man of somewhat stern aspect, strong in mind and strong in will. What Tennyson says of Enchirion applied to him: "Whosoever he set his heart he set his hand To do the thing he willed and bore it through."

He was decidedly very much a politician of the older type, as we now compare. He met opposition and fought hard. There was a fundamental sense of righteousness even if beaten, colored by personal ambition. Among men it will ever be thus. Beneath a calm exterior he had an irresistible energy and some temper. To control these eight boys required, there and fostered determination. In the rush of harvest time as these hungry boys sat about full tables, he would sometimes say, "Boys, swallow chunks" ("Jongens slik brokken").

When out of humor with a hired man, he might for days maintain a very reticent mood - which the hired man usually reciprocates with like attitude. When it had lasted long enough, Mr. Le Coq would break the spell by saying bluntly, "Hier jon, het je in sigaar; en nou geen gedonder meer" (Here John, is a cigar, and now, no more nonsense.)

In legislative gatherings or in commissions when agreement could



not be reached, he employed, with the opposition unsworn, the diplomatic skilful of handing around cigars. It worked like the Indian "Calumet"

It was such men as Mr. Le Coq who put themselves behind the academy movement. These men we builders. They were mighty in their completion such as we may view these now. There were mysteries and depths in their nature that neither friend nor foe could ever fathom.

I shall send on also a curious collection which the son sent me as he says much is now meaningless. But in your research there may be some bits of curious information in those fading scraps.

I do not know how long you are still at your thesis. I may send along such matter as occurs to me

With Interest in your project

Your Servant

B. D. F.

An old Latin phrase says:

De mortuis nihil nisi bonum.

Concerning the dead, nothing except the good



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BDD [Rev. B. D. Dykstra]

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*Transcribed by Liesbeth ten Hoeve*